



# sundance film festival

## Submitting To The 2015 Sundance Film Festival

### 1) When are the submission deadlines and what are the fees?

#### Early Submission Deadline:

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS  
Monday, July 28, 2014 - \$40 entry fee

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS and DOCUMENTARIES  
Monday, August 11, 2014 - \$60 entry fee

#### Official Submission Deadline:

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS  
Monday, August 25, 2014 - \$60 ENTRY FEE

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS and DOCUMENTARIES  
Friday, August 29, 2014 - \$80 ENTRY FEE

#### Late Submission Deadline:

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS  
Monday, September 15, 2014 - \$80 ENTRY FEE

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS and DOCUMENTARIES  
Monday, September 29, 2014 - \$105 ENTRY FEE

These are the dates that films must arrive at our office in Los Angeles. They are NOT postmark deadlines. We handle all submissions identically, regardless of which deadline you choose. Late deadline submissions are processed and screened in exactly the same manner as early and official deadline submissions are– the only difference is the higher submission fee. We encourage you to submit as early as possible!

Please note that your film MUST arrive at our office no later than the deadline for which you have registered. For example, if you pay \$60 to register your Short Film for the Official Submission deadline and we receive it after August 25th, you will be prompted to make an additional payment of \$20 in order to bring your account up to date. We will not view your film until this payment is received. For this reason, it is suggested that you mail your film to us well in advance of the deadline for which you have registered!

## 2) What are your submission categories and how do I choose the right one for my film?

Each year, we select 110-120 Feature Films and 70-80 Short Films to play in one of 11 Festival programs. However, you may not submit your film directly to any one specific program. Instead, you must select from one of six submission categories, listed below:

### **U.S. Narrative Feature Films:**

Any narrative work of fiction with a running time of 50 minutes or more, including films that are shot in a "mockumentary" style. In order to qualify as a U.S. Narrative Feature Film, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, and at least half of the project's financing must originate from within the United States. Only films that are World Premieres are eligible for our U.S. Dramatic Competition program, but U.S. Narrative Feature Films that have previously played at up to two other festivals anywhere in the world are still eligible for our out-of-competition programs. U.S. Narrative Films that have been otherwise exhibited theatrically, been broadcast on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other distribution platform including, but not limited to, DVD, Blu-ray or video on demand, are not eligible for any of the Institute's Festival programs.

### **U.S. Documentary Feature Films:**

Any non-fiction film with a running time of 50 minutes or more WITH THE EXCEPTION OF, and NOT INCLUDING, entirely scripted or improvised fictionalizations of actual events. If your documentary contains some dramatization of actual events, you may submit in this category, but we will ultimately decide which program is best suited for your project, if accepted. In order to qualify as a U.S. Documentary Feature Film, at least half of the submitted project's financing must originate from within the United States. Only films that are World Premieres are eligible for our U.S. Documentary Competition program, but U.S. Documentary Feature Films that have previously played at up to two other festivals anywhere in the world are still eligible for our out-of-competition programs. U.S. Documentary Films that have been otherwise exhibited theatrically, broadcast on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other distribution platform including, but not limited to, DVD, Blu-ray or video on demand, are not eligible for any of the Institute's Festival programs.

### **International Narrative Feature Films:**

Any narrative work of fiction with a running time of 50 minutes or more, including films that are shot in a "mockumentary" style. In order to qualify as an International Narrative Feature Film, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, and more than half of the project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. International Narrative Feature Films that have been exhibited theatrically, broadcast on television, released via any home video or other distribution platform, or screened at any Film Festival outside of their country of origin are not eligible to submit to the Institute for Festival consideration.

### **International Documentary Feature Films:**

Any non-fiction film with a running time of 50 minutes or more, with the exception of entirely scripted or improvised fictionalizations of actual events. If your documentary contains some dramatization of actual events, you may submit in this category, but we will ultimately decide which program is best suited for your project, if accepted. In order to qualify as an International Documentary Feature Film, more than half of the project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. International Documentary Feature Films that have been exhibited theatrically, broadcast on television, released via any home video or other distribution platform, or screened at any Film Festival outside of their country of origin are not eligible to submit to the Institute for Festival consideration.

### **U.S. Short Films:**

Any narrative OR documentary film of U.S. origin with a running time of less than 50 minutes. In order to qualify as a U.S. Short Film, at least half of the submitted project's financing must originate from within the United States. Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, Blu-ray or on-demand, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility.

### **International Short Films:**

Any narrative OR documentary film of International origin with a running time of less than 50 minutes. In order to qualify as an International Short Film, more than half of the submitted project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, Blu-ray or on-demand, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility.

### **3) What are the festival program categories and eligibility requirements for each?**

The Sundance Film Festival is comprised of five Competition program categories and seven non-competition program categories, listed in separate sections below. You may not submit your film directly to any specific category! If your film is accepted into the Festival, our Programming team will decide which of the Festival program categories it will play. Please be aware that these may vary from year to year, so the information listed below is subject to change at any time.

***At the core of our Festival program are our competition categories. Films that are selected to be in one of these five program categories are eligible for Jury Prizes in their respective sections:***

#### **U.S. Dramatic Competition (16 U.S. Narrative feature films):**

For 30 years, Sundance's U.S. Dramatic Competition has offered a first look at groundbreaking new voices in American independent film. Fueled by fierce creativity and vision, these 16 films are guaranteed to leave a lasting impact on the next generation of cinema.

Films must be WORLD PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened at any other film festival, been released via any home video outlet, broadcast on television or the internet, or had a ticketed public theatrical exhibition anywhere in the world, it is not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, have a total running time of 50 minutes or more, and at least half of the project's financing must originate from within the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

#### **U.S. Documentary Competition (16 U.S. Documentary feature films):**

From human rights to popular culture, these 16 films confront the subjects that define our time. Stylistic diversity and rigorous filmmaking distinguish these new American documentaries.

Films must be WORLD PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened at any other film festival, been released via any home video outlet, broadcast on television or the internet, or had a ticketed public theatrical exhibition anywhere in the world, it is not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be a non-fiction documentary subject ("mockumentaries" do not qualify), have a total running time of 50 minutes or more, and at least half of the project's financing must originate from within the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

#### **World Cinema Dramatic Competition (12-14 International Narrative feature films):**

From all corners of the globe, these emerging filmmaking talents offer fresh perspectives and innovative styles. We present these exceptional works as a way to honor the independent spirit in filmmakers everywhere.

Submissions must be INTERNATIONAL PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened outside of its country of origin, whether at a film festival or other ticketed public theatrical exhibition, it is not eligible for this program. It is also ineligible if it has been released via any home video outlet or broadcast on television or the internet in any country. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, have a total running time of at least 50 minutes, and more than half of the project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

#### **World Cinema Documentary Competition (12-14 International Documentary feature films):**

Made by some of the most courageous and extraordinary filmmakers working today, these films from around the world poignantly examine issues that range from the personal to the universal.

Submissions must be INTERNATIONAL PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened outside of its country of origin, whether at a film festival or other ticketed public theatrical exhibition, it is not eligible for this program. It is also ineligible if it has been released via any home video outlet or broadcast on television or the internet in any country. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be a non-fiction documentary subject ("mockumentaries" do not qualify), have a total running time of at least 50 minutes, and more than half of the project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

### **Short Film Competition (70-80 U.S. & International short films):**

Limited only by runtime and driven by innovation and experimentation, short films transcend the rules of conventional storytelling. From cutting-edge animation to the best in dramatic and documentary cinema, these Shorts Programs call out filmmaking's most original imaginations.

All short films are selected to play before features or in one of eight Shorts Programs, and all accepted shorts are eligible for awards in our Shorts Competition. Short Films must have a total running time of less than 50 minutes, including credits. There are no premiere or prior screening restrictions for short films. Shorts may have been released via any home video outlet, broadcast on television or the internet, and/or publicly screened anywhere in the world and still remain eligible for our Shorts Competition. All short films at the Festival are eligible for the Short Film Grand Jury Prize. Short films will also compete for jury prizes within their specific categories (U.S. Fiction, International Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Animation).

***Films selected for the following Festival program categories will screen out of competition, so the eligibility requirements are generally not as strict. With the exception of the Premieres and Documentary Premieres categories, non-competition films do not need to retain any sort of premiere status, and are allowed to have screened at up to two other film festivals before Sundance:***

### **Spotlight (8-10 U.S. & International feature films):**

The Spotlight category is a tribute to the cinema we love. Regardless of where these impressive films have played throughout the world, the Sundance Film Festival is thrilled to light a marquee for them. We are confident you'll love them, too.

In order to qualify for this out-of-competition category, films are not required to retain any sort of premiere status, and are allowed to have screened at up to two other film festivals or ticketed public theatrical exhibitions prior to Sundance. However, they may not have been released via any home video outlet or broadcast on television or the internet in their entirety.

### **NEXT (8-10 U.S. Narrative feature films):**

Films selected for this category stretch a low budget to create big art. < = > (less than equals greater than) is our speak for the creativity that limited resources can inspire. Although these films share a Festival category, there is nothing categorical about them. By nature, they embody the spirit of indie filmmaking.

Films must be WORLD PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened at any other film festival, been released via any home video outlet, broadcast on television or the internet, or had a ticketed public theatrical exhibition anywhere in the world, it is not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, have a total running time of 50 minutes or more, and at least half of the project's financing must originate from within the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for the "Best of NEXT Audience Award."

### **Park City At Midnight (8 U.S. & International feature films):**

A treat for true cinephiles and casual filmgoers alike, this out-of-competition section presents an eclectic mix of horror, sci-fi, over-the-top comedies, surreal tales, explicit animation, and bizarre stories that defy categorization. Raucous, rowdy, and rebellious; softies need not enter!

Films selected for this section do not need to retain any sort of premiere status, and are allowed to have screened at up to two other film festivals before Sundance. However, they may not have been released via any home video outlet or broadcast on television or the internet in their entirety.

### **New Frontier Features (5-6 U.S. & International feature films):**

The New Frontier category celebrates experimentation and the convergence of film, art, and new media technology as an emerging hotbed for cinematic innovation, highlighting work that pushes the limits of traditional aesthetics and structures of filmmaking.

Films selected for this section do not need to retain any sort of premiere status, and are allowed to have screened at up to two other film festivals before Sundance. However, they may not have been released via any home video outlet or broadcast on television or the internet in their entirety.

### **From The Collection (1-2 U.S. & International feature films):**

Rediscover classic works of independent cinema as the Sundance Film Festival presents films from the vaults of the Sundance Collection at UCLA. A unique archive devoted to preserving indie film, the Collection exists not only to save important works that would otherwise disappear but also to make them accessible to new audiences and show them as they were intended to be seen: on the big screen. Formed in partnership with the UCLA Film and Television Archive and growing through the support of donor companies and individual filmmakers, the Collection now contains more than 800 films.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition category is by invitation only. Open submissions will not be considered for this program.

### **Premieres (14-18 U.S. & International feature films):**

The Premieres program showcases some of the most highly anticipated dramatic films of the coming year. Catch world premieres and the latest work from established directors at the Sundance Film Festival before they create a splash at local theatres.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition category is by invitation only, but films that are selected must maintain a U.S. or World Premiere status.

### **Documentary Premieres (8-10 U.S. & International feature films):**

Reflecting the growing impact and popularity of documentaries in our world today, the Documentary Premieres section furthers our commitment to this important form of storytelling. Expect to see the debut of new docs about big subjects from established filmmakers.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition category is by invitation only, but films that are selected must maintain a U.S. or World Premiere status.

## **4) How do you distinguish short films from feature films?**

Films with running times of less than 50 minutes (including credits) are classified as Shorts. Films that are 50 minutes or longer are classified as Features. You should select your submission category based on what the final projected running time of the film will be. We have no minimum or maximum length restrictions-- the only requirement is that your film must fit on a on a single DVD, dual-layer DVD, or Blu-ray disc.

## **5) How do you determine whether a film is considered U.S. or International?**

In almost all cases, this is determined by the primary source of the film's funding. If 50% or more of the film's financing came from sources within the United States, it qualifies as a U.S. Film. If more than 50% of the film's financing came from international sources, it qualifies as an International Film. Please select your submission category based on the primary source of financing, but we do reserve the right to make a final judgment call based on a number of other factors, such as the primary shooting location, language(s) spoken in the film, and the nationalities of key members of a film's cast and crew.

## **6) What is the definition of the term "ticketed public theatrical exhibition"?**

As outlined in Item 3 above, your feature-length film is ineligible for many of our Festival Program Categories if a prior "ticketed public theatrical exhibition" has occurred or will occur before January 22nd, 2015. This doesn't mean that you may not submit your film, but it does limit the number of Program Categories it is eligible for. A "ticketed public theatrical exhibition" is defined as any screening of your completed film to which members of the general public may purchase or otherwise obtain tickets, whether at a film festival or any other public screening. If you hold a "work-in-progress" screening of your film in order to raise completion funds, this does not count as a ticketed public theatrical exhibition. However, the version of the film you submit to us must be significantly different than the one that was screened as a work-in-progress. Test screenings held for the purpose of obtaining feedback are also considered to be work-in-progress screenings. Additionally, private, invite-only screenings of your film are not considered to be "ticketed public theatrical exhibitions," and thus will not affect your eligibility, even if the invited guests were required to purchase tickets in order to attend.

Although feature-length films that have previously screened elsewhere are still eligible for submission to many of our out-of-competition categories, we do prefer to play U.S. feature films that are world premieres and international feature films that have not yet screened outside of their country of origin, so we reserve the right to use premiere status in our decision-making process. We have no such requirements for Short Films, which may have had any number of prior screenings and still remain eligible.

## 7) Which formats do you accept for submissions?

All films must be submitted on a single disc or via Withoutabox's Secure Online Screener system. We cannot accept any other digital download or streaming links at this time. For FEATURE FILM SUBMISSIONS, we accept physical discs in three formats: DVD, dual-layer DVD, or Blu-ray disc. Should you choose to submit your film on dual-layer DVD or Blu-ray disc, we ask that you please include a standard 4.7GB DVD-R or DVD+R disc as a backup.

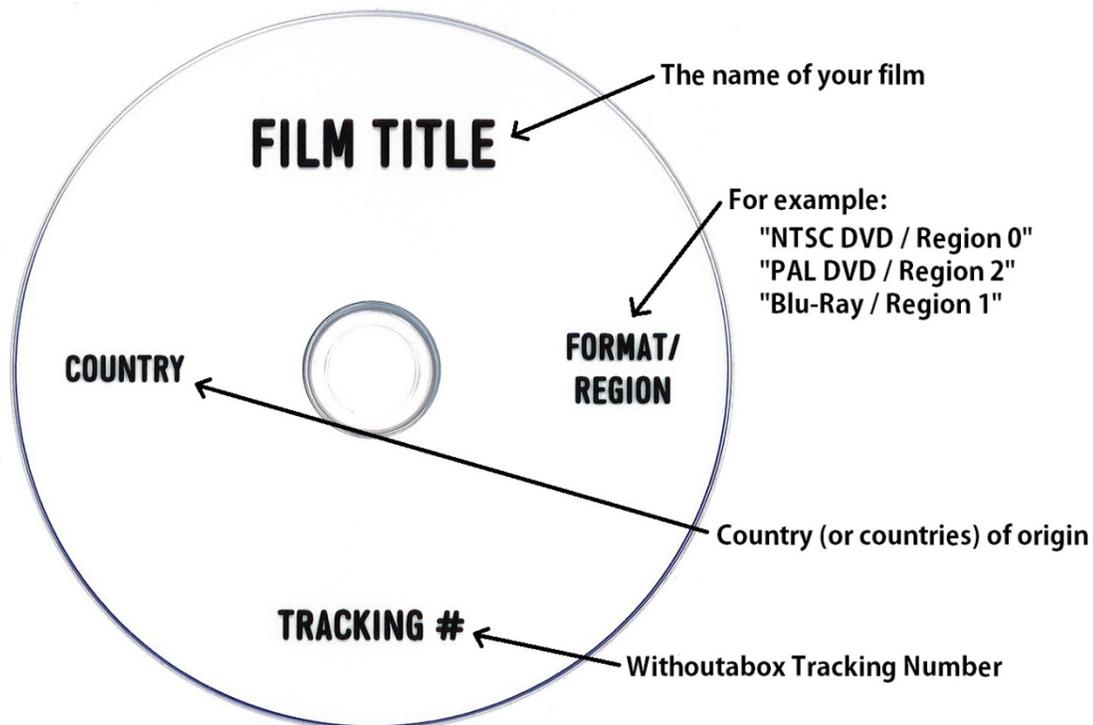
Please note that we DO NOT ACCEPT BLU-RAY DISCS FOR SHORT FILMS at this time! Due to the volume of short film submissions we receive (8,161 for 2014), it's simply too confusing and time-consuming for our Shorts Programmers to deal with multiple formats. For that reason, you must submit your short film on a single DVD or via Withoutabox's Secure Online Screener system.

We would prefer that discs be sent in a simple paper sleeve in order to cut down on waste. Once we receive your disc, the case or sleeve will be recycled, so it doesn't matter what type of packaging you send it to us in.

Please ensure that your DVD or Blu-ray disc plays in a standard DVD or Blu-ray player before it is mailed to us! Do not simply burn a video file to a disc as data— your disc must be authored as a DVD or Blu-ray. We will accept DVD submissions on dual-layer discs, but if you choose to submit your film in that format, please include a standard DVD as a backup.

For DVDs, it is highly preferred that you send us an NTSC, region 1 or region free (region 0) DVD when submitting to us, but we will accept other formats as well (such as PAL). If you are sending a DVD that has a region code other than 0 or 1, and/or a format other than NTSC, please mark this CLEARLY on the face of the disc and on the DVD sleeve or case. If you choose to submit your feature film on Blu-ray, we ask that you ONLY submit a region 1 or region 0 disc! Due to region coding issues with the Blu-ray format, most of our Blu-ray players will not play discs that are formatted to region 2 or above.

Please be sure to write or print the following information directly on the face of your disc, preferably in the manner provided in the example below:



## 8) How does the Withoutabox secure online screener system work?

If you choose to submit an online screener instead of sending a disc, please be aware that the process of completing your upload can take up to 24 hours, so don't wait until the last minute to begin! Although our online application is handled through Withoutabox, digital uploads are handled through your IMDb account. Once you select Secure Online Screener as your preferred submission format on the Withoutabox application, you will be taken to IMDb to begin the upload.

Please note that this system does not currently support high definition video! You may upload an HD file, but it will be converted to SD for viewing purposes. Your file MUST be less than 2GB! This may result in quality that is less than desirable for feature-length films, so if you are concerned with this restriction, please select an alternate method of submission when filling out the application. If you select Secure Online Screener as your preferred submission format and choose to mail a DVD or Blu-ray disc instead, this can cause issues with your account once your disc arrives. For that reason, we ask that you please upload your film to IMDb BEFORE filling out the Withoutabox application to ensure that the quality is acceptable.

Below are the accepted file formats for digital uploads:

- .MP4 files using the H.264 video codec and the AAC audio codec
- .MOV files using the H.264 video codec and the AAC audio codec
- .FLV files using the Sorenson, H.263 or VP6 video codec and the MP3 audio codec

For the best quality within the IMDb video player, it is recommended that you encode your video at 480x360 with a frame rate of 29.97 FPS (NTSC standard). Once your upload is complete, please view the film in its entirety to ensure that everything is in order. After you have finished viewing your uploaded film within IMDb, return to your Withoutabox account to attach it to your Sundance application. We will not have access to your film until this step is complete-- simply uploading the film to IMDb is not enough!

Please be aware that uploading your film does not give us access to do anything other than view it-- we cannot download, copy, or share films that have been uploaded via Withoutabox/IMDb for our consideration.

## 9) Will you accept a digital upload of my film outside of Withoutabox?

To keep our process as simple as possible, we can only accept digital film uploads via the Secure Online Screener system available to you within your Withoutabox/IMDb account. At this time, we cannot accept a link to your film on Vimeo, YouTube or any other video streaming or download site.

## 10) Do you accept submissions on vhs or any other format?

No. All films must be submitted on a standard DVD-R/DVD+R, Blu-ray disc, or via the Withoutabox/IMDb Secure Online Screener system. For the purposes of reviewing your initial submission, we cannot accept HD-DVD, VHS, Beta, Mini-DV, HD-CAM, 16mm, 35mm or any other format not referenced in items 7 and 8 above.

## 11) If my film includes non-English dialogue, do you require English subtitles?

All films that contain significant non-English dialogue MUST include on-screen English subtitles at the time of submission. A translated list of dialogue on paper is not sufficient! Please do not send us an un-subtitled foreign-language film with the intention of providing a subtitled version at a later date. If your film is mostly in English and you intend to intentionally leave out subtitles for any non-English dialogue included in the film, you do not need to provide subtitles for those particular sections.

## 12) Where do I send my submission?

All submissions should be mailed to us at the address below. PLEASE be sure to write your Withoutabox tracking number on the front of your envelope-- this will help ensure that your submission is processed as quickly as possible!

2015 Sundance Film Festival Submissions  
Tracking #: (write your tracking number here!)  
5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

If you submitted your film via Withoutabox/IMDb's Secure Online Screener system, you do not need to send us any physical materials. Please do not send us a DVD or Blu-ray disc if you have already uploaded your film. If you are not satisfied with the quality of your digital upload and would prefer to send a disc instead, please contact [programming@sundance.org](mailto:programming@sundance.org) so that we can modify your previously selected submission format.

### **13) How old can my film be and still qualify for submission?**

Any film submitted for 2015 Festival consideration must have been completed in either 2013 or 2014. If your film was completed prior to 2013, it is no longer eligible for submission. If your film's production took place prior to 2013 but your final cut was not completed until 2013 or 2014, your film is still eligible.

### **14) My film was not accepted last year. Can I re-submit?**

Yes, but only if it has changed significantly. We are not interested in seeing the same cut again-- it should be a complete reworking of the previous version that was submitted to us. If you are in doubt, it probably hasn't changed enough.

### **15) Can I submit my film as a rough cut?**

A large percentage of the films submitted to us every year are unfinished versions with incomplete or temporary sound, missing scenes, no credits or titles, unfinished effects, etc. However, it does need to be complete enough for us to be able to make a decision. If you expect that your final version will be 90 minutes long, it's probably not a good idea to send us a 45 minute rough cut. Whenever possible, you should provide an on-screen description of missing scenes or elements as placeholders within the continuity of the film.

### **16) Can I submit my film with a temporary music track?**

Temp tracks, scratch music, and temp scores are perfectly fine for your submission, but please include a list of missing or temporary elements directly on-screen before the film begins.

### **17) Am I required to obtain rights clearance for music or other copyrighted material included in my film?**

From a legal standpoint, you must clear all copyrighted materials included in your film before you can publicly screen it. However, Sundance does not check to ensure that you have obtained clearance for these materials at any point during the application process, nor will we be held responsible for any inclusion of uncleared materials in your film. It is the sole responsibility of the entity submitting the project to secure permission from the copyright holder of the material in question, whether it is music, stock footage, or any other elements that could violate an existing copyright. Films that are accepted into the Festival must sign a waiver stating that materials used in the film do not violate any existing copyright. Quite often, rights holders offer reduced rates for festival films, so you should contact them directly to avoid any potential rights infringements.

### **18) If my film has aired on television, may I still submit it?**

If your film is a short (less than 50 minutes in length), it is still eligible even though it has been broadcast on television. If your feature-length film (50 minutes or longer) is from the U.S. and has had one or more local or nationwide television airings anywhere in the world, that particular cut is NOT eligible for submission. However, it may be submitted if the version that aired on TV is significantly different from the one you wish to submit. For example, a documentary that aired in an hour-long TV slot may still be submitted if a longer cut is created for the purposes of theatrical distribution. If your feature-length film originates from outside of the U.S., it may have been broadcast on television within its country of origin and still maintain eligibility.

### **19) Do I really have to fill out the online application?**

All submissions must be issued a unique Tracking Number in order to be recognized by our system. The only way to get a Tracking Number is to fill out the online application at [www.sundance.org/submissions](http://www.sundance.org/submissions) or by logging into your existing account at [www.withoutabox.com](http://www.withoutabox.com). Unregistered submissions will not be viewed! If you are having trouble with the online form, please e-mail us at [programming@sundance.org](mailto:programming@sundance.org) and we will be glad to help guide you through the process.

### **20) What should I include with my submission?**

After you have completed the online application, all we need from you is a single copy of your film. In an effort to cut down on waste, we ask that you do not send printed press or promotional materials to us-- we will not keep anything in your package except for your disc. Quite often, films sent to us in standard size retail DVD or Blu-ray cases will become dislodged during shipping, resulting in scratched, unplayable discs, so we recommend mailing your film in a paper sleeve or slim jewel/clamshell case. Please refrain from taping your disc to any surface, as tape residue may also render your disc unplayable. Our preferred method of packaging is a medium (approximately 6" x 9"), bubble padded envelope. It is not necessary to wrap your disc in bubble wrap and mail it to us in an oversized box. Doing so will only make it more difficult for us to process your film once it is received.

Please do not use a paper label on your disc! There are many different variables with stickers and paper labels that could render your disc unplayable-- a permanent marker (such as a Sharpie) will work just fine. Discs with text or graphics printed directly on the surface are also acceptable.

## 21) What happens if you are unable to get my film to play?

We will make every effort to view your disc or online screener, but in the event that we are unable to watch your film, we will attempt to contact you to request another copy using the primary contact information that you provided on your application. However, there is no guarantee that we will get your replacement disc in time, and we must give preference to those who sent in a working copy to begin with. For this reason, we ask that you make absolutely sure that your disc or online screener plays all the way through BEFORE you send it to us! If your disc arrives broken, we will also make every attempt to contact you for a replacement.

## 22) Will you notify me if you do not receive my film?

Due to the volume of submissions we receive (12,218 were received for 2014 Festival consideration), we are unable to contact each applicant individually if we do not receive his or her film. It is your responsibility to ensure that your package arrives at our office before the deadline you have selected. Once your film has been marked as received in our system, you will be able to log into your Withoutabox account and see that it has been marked as such. Please allow up to six weeks for us to process your submission once it has been mailed. If your film has still not been marked as received within this period of time, contact us at [programming@sundance.org](mailto:programming@sundance.org) for further instructions.

## 23) Can I submit a newer cut of my film after I've already submitted an earlier version?

Sending in replacement cuts after you have already submitted a prior version of the film can cause a great deal of confusion throughout the screening process and it is also not fair to those who sent in a cut prior to their selected submission deadline. If, for example, you pay \$55 to submit your feature film to us by the early deadline, you may not send us a replacement cut once that deadline has passed. We reserve the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees, any applicant who attempts to avoid submission fees by sending in a replacement cut of their film after their selected deadline date has passed. If you log into your Withoutabox account and your film has not been marked as received, please contact us at [programming@sundance.org](mailto:programming@sundance.org) before you send another copy. WE WILL ONLY VIEW THE FIRST CUT OF YOUR FILM THAT WE RECEIVE!

## 24) Can you return my DVD or Blu-ray to me once you're done with it?

Unfortunately, we are unable to return any physical materials that are sent to us. However, we do take the security of this process very seriously-- at no point will your disc leave our hands, and once our submissions process is over, all physical discs are recycled at a secure facility.

## 25) Is there a screenplay competition at the festival?

We do not currently have a screenplay competition, nor do we accept screenplay submissions. Completed feature films that are accepted into our narrative competition program categories are eligible for a screenwriting prize, but we do not have a screenplay competition at the Festival. Please visit [www.sundance.org](http://www.sundance.org) for more information about our non-festival programs that do accept written materials.

## 26) Do I need to meet a minimum age requirement in order to submit a film?

No, we encourage filmmakers of all ages to submit their work. However, we do not have any separate categories or programs specifically related to young or student filmmakers. All submitted films will compete against each other for available slots in each program. If you are under the age of 18 and your film is accepted, we will require signed, written permission from your parent or legal guardian before we are able to screen your film.

## 27) How many films may I submit?

You may submit as many films as you'd like, but you only need to create one account. Upon doing so, you may fill out individual applications for multiple films. We do not offer reduced rates in fees for multiple submissions. If you submit three films, you must pay the submission fees for all three of them. Please do not submit multiple projects on the same disc. If we receive a submission with multiple films on one disc, we will only consider the first film included.

## 28) What if my contact information or anything else about my submission changes after I've filled out the application?

You may log into your account at [www.withoutabox.com](http://www.withoutabox.com) at any time to update or revise your application. We will use the public contact information from your application to contact you regarding problems with your submission and to notify you of your acceptance status, so please ensure that this information is always kept up-to-date.

### **29) Can I make trailers, clips, and/or scenes of my film available online?**

Yes. Posting minimal footage or scenes from your film on the Internet does not affect its eligibility for any submission category. It is also acceptable for cast and crew to use scenes from your film for the purposes of an exhibition reel.

### **30) When will I find out whether or not my film was selected?**

We will contact you via e-mail during the first week of December. Please make sure that the e-mail address you provided on your application will be operational at that time. If your e-mail address changes after you've filled out the application, please log into your account and update it. We will not be held responsible for any failed delivery of notification! If you haven't heard from us by December 10th, please contact us at [programming@sundance.org](mailto:programming@sundance.org) for an official notification.

### **31) If my film is selected for the festival, what projection formats do you accept?**

We accept Film prints in 35mm format, digital video on Sony HDCAM tape and DCP. For 35mm film prints, we screen 24fps in aspect ratios of 1.37, 1.66, 1.85, or 2.39. We accept sound formats of mono, stereo, Dolby SR and Dolby SRD (Dolby Digital). For Sony HDCAM, we accept HD 1080 format in the following frame rates: 59.94i, 23.98psf, 25p, and 50i. If your video image is 4x3, 1.85, 1.66, or 2.35/2.39/Scope you must have it pillarboxed or letterboxed during the lab transfer for it to be screened without any image distortion. For HDCAM sound, we require LtRt or Dolby Pro Logic compatible stereo mixed tracks on platforms 1 & 2. We also accept Dolby E on platforms 3 & 4, though not all of our venues are equipped for Dolby E playback. DCP must be DCI compliant, keys must be open for window as specified by Festival, and HDCAM or 35mm backup copy must be provided. Please note that these specifications are subject to change at any time. If your film is accepted, we will provide you with the most up-to-date exhibition specs.

### **32) You don't actually watch all of these submissions, right?**

We depend on new talent and filmmakers to uphold our mission as a Festival of discovery. If we didn't watch the films submitted to us, we could potentially miss out on many fresh and exciting new works of independent film, so it is in our best interest to view all films submitted to us. If your film is received in time, your account is paid in full, and there are no playability issues with your disc or digital upload, your film will be treated in exactly the same manner as all other films submitted to us for consideration.

### **33) What types of films are you looking for? What stands out?**

We celebrate the independent spirit of interesting and original storytelling. Diverse voices and films that push the limits of style and narrative also excite us, but there is no single aesthetic that we look for over any other. We are mainly looking for great films and interesting points of view.

### **34) If my film is not chosen, may I speak with a programmer for notes or feedback?**

Unfortunately, no. While we would love to speak with each individual filmmaker about their films, it simply isn't viable for us to correspond with more than 12,000 filmmakers each year in this manner. We view far more worthy films each year than we have room to play, so please don't be discouraged if your film isn't accepted.

### **35) Where does my submission fee go?**

Sundance Institute is a non-profit organization that provides many different programs and initiatives for film and theatre writers, directors, actors, producers, and composers, as well as other artists. Fees from Festival submissions help fund programs such as these, and also help us keep the submissions process thorough and democratic. We strive to process every package promptly and view every film with an attentive and unbiased eye. For more information about Sundance Institute's other programs, please visit us at [www.sundance.org](http://www.sundance.org). Festival submission fees are non-refundable.

### **36) When does the 2015 Sundance Film Festival take place?**

The Festival will take place in Park City, Utah from January 22nd – February 1st, 2015. We hope to see you there!